

Rec'd 7/27

OGC 8-0996

Approved For Release 2003/08/04 : CIA-RDP80R01731R000100160053-0

~~SECRET~~

WILL DESTROY

Executive Registry

10-4032

State review(s) completed.

23 MAY 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Hearing - Senate Foreign Relations Committee

1. On Monday, 19 May, the Director and Mr. Robert Murphy, Deputy Under Secretary, Department of State, appeared before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which was chaired by Senator Theodore Francis Green (D., R.I.). Also present were Republican Senators Alexander Wiley (Wis.), H. Alexander Smith (N.J.), Bourke B. Hickenlooper (Iowa), William Langer (N.Dak.), William F. Knowland (Calif.) (for a few minutes at the end only), George D. Aiken (Vt.) and Homer E. Capehart (Ind.). Democratic Senators present, in addition to Chairman Green, were Hubert H. Humphrey (Minn.), Mike Mansfield (Mont.), and Wayne Morse (Oreg.).

2. After Mr. Murphy had read his prepared statement, the Director spoke from notes on the evolution of Communist tactics from the hard approach of force in the Stalinist era to the present more subtle combination of economic approaches and penetration of and alliance with leftist elements. In South America this presented them with many opportunities. In the case of Venezuela the Communists came back into the country in force with the overthrow of Perez Jimenez. The Director pointed out that we could and did predict the possibilities of trouble and the nature of the trouble foreseen, but that CIA cannot predict the nature and spread of riots with any precision or the stability of security forces in a situation such as existed in Venezuela. The Chairman limited questioning by Committee members to five minutes apiece.

3. Senator Humphrey said his sole aim was to inform himself to look to the future and spoke of his high regard for the Director and CIA. In connection with South American universities he asked if Department of State had advised Vice President Nixon not to visit them. Mr. Murphy said that there had been considerable discussion of this and advice that

OGC Has Reviewed

DOCUMENT NO. 55

NO CHANGES

□ ENCLOSURE

CLASS. IN

DATE: 13 Feb 81

EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE

090

CRC, 3/4/2003

Approved For Release 2003/08/04 : CIA-RDP80R01731R000100160053-0

~~SECRET~~

1022

SECRET

perhaps the Vice President should not visit these at which the most serious trouble was expected and pointed out that in some degree the success of Mr. Nixon's contact with the students at Montevideo influenced him and his party to hope that similar successes could be developed in the succeeding visits. He pointed out that CIA had developed and given to State a large amount of specific information on the Caracas situation. He also said that in connection with the visit to the San Marco University the Vice President decided to go on after very grave doubts.

4. Senator Wiley said it was his understanding Vice President Nixon's visits were made on the decision of the Executive Branch that they would promote our foreign policy in the area and that the timing had been tied to President Frondizi's inaugural. He said he understood there were specific invitations from each country and that visits such as these followed regular diplomatic tradition. He also said he felt that in this particular case the trouble could be turned to advantage by revealing and emphasizing to the South Americans themselves the nature of the Communist danger. He also asked if the Ambassadors from the countries concerned had not apologized so that relations currently were good. Mr. Murphy said this was true.

5. Senator Mansfield asked first for Mr. Murphy's comments about the letter Ambassador Warren at Ankara had sent to Pedro Estrada complimenting him on putting down the first revolt. Mr. Murphy pointed out that when Mr. Warren had been Ambassador in Venezuela it had been his duty to work with the regime of which Estrada was a part and, therefore, it was not too unnatural for him to write to his former associate. Mr. Murphy said, however, that he personally considered it a source of considerable embarrassment. Mr. Mansfield asked if Perez Jimenez did, as rumored in the papers, own property in Florida, D. C., and other places, and was bringing \$25,000,000 into the United States. Mr. Murphy said that State would not have specific information on such matters but agreed that probably Perez Jimenez was a wealthy man. Senator Mansfield then commented that he thought it was very unfortunate to have dispatched Marines and Paratroopers to the Caribbean with so much publicity, and asked if State had concurred. Mr. Murphy said yes the Secretary had concurred; that the decision was made in the light of the events as they saw them at the time, and it would be necessary to wait and see the long-run results. Senator Mansfield said that as a former Marine he knew the antipathy toward them in the area and Marines should not have been used in any case.

SECRET

6. Senator Smith said he remembered pleasant relations in South American countries he visited two years ago and asked if the Communist threat was a very recent development. Mr. Murphy said there had been a considerable period of evolution and growing Communist capability and that the economic decline in South America has speeded up and enhanced this capability during the last two years. Senator Smith asked if the Nixon trip was, therefore, in recognition of the growing problems, and Mr. Murphy said yes that was one of the considerations.

7. Senator Morse also asked why Marines were sent when other military forces were available in the area. Mr. Murphy said it was a matter of judgment and if no action had been taken and damage had occurred that too would have been criticized. Senator Morse asked for a report on what other forces were available, and Mr. Murphy said he would ask for such information. Senator Morse asked if the dispatch of Marines was done in anger or after careful consideration and if so what was the consideration. Mr. Murphy said there was very careful discussion of all aspects.

8. Senator Hickenlooper said he had noted considerable criticism that the United States had not been paying sufficient attention to South America and yet when we sent General LeMay on a spectacular flight to South America we got criticized for that too. He said it's a case of "Damned if you do and damned if you don't," and seemed to be the same with the Marines. He said the United States will also be accused of being an imperialist power if we deal with any current regime. He asked what excuse the Venezuelan authorities gave for the failure to keep order. Mr. Murphy said their excuses were not too satisfactory and the failure seemed due particularly to unawareness of the problem, and the fact that the old Estrada security forces had been disbanded and replaced by a new outfit

25X1

9. Senator Aiken asked if the Communist activities were carried on by South American Communists, not Russian. Mr. Murphy said that was true although they get the party line and targets from Moscow. Senator Aiken asked if we gave Perez Jimenes a medal, and Mr. Murphy said we had given him a Medal for Merit in 1954 and read from a paper the circumstances leading to that decoration.

10. Senator Capahart asked about the Vice President's itinerary and Mr. Maurice Bernbaum of State who had been with the Vice President answered. Senator Capahart asked if the rioters really were students and

SECRET

Mr. Bernbaum said they were students who appeared to be egged on by older persons. Senator Capehart asked if there were any other means of dealing with such Communist activities than with strength, and Mr. Murphy said strength must be available but it is necessary to counter Communism in many ways. Senator Capehart asked if it had not been necessary for the President to have troops ready since peaceful protection had failed, and Mr. Murphy agreed.

11. Senator Green asked if the Government knew much about international Communism. The Director said we had a great deal of information and that it is a vast organization which works through the hard core elements worldwide, controlled through the Party itself. Senator Green asked if it were a secret activity and the Director said it was.

12. All the Senators were highly complimentary both to Mr. Murphy and the Director for their presentations. At the end Senator Morse said he wanted the witnesses back for more questioning, and Senator Humphrey said he too wished more information, particularly what is being done propagandawise to counter the South American problem. He also wanted information on the economic and educational problems and policies in South America. Senator Mansfield asked if a newspaper rumor was true that the Vice President was two minutes from death. Mr. Bernbaum said yes, if his car had gone over as it nearly did the Vice President probably would not have gotten out of it. He commented on the splendid job the Secret Service had done.

SIGNED

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

OGC:LRH:mks

Orig: DCI

cc: LDDCI

DD/P

Legislative Counsel

General Counsel

SECRET